

CORNWALL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

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Leanne Maguire, Principal

Testimonial: Grumbling Gryphons' *The Ghost Net*

Presented at Cornwall Consolidated School

We are so grateful for the collaboration and creative partnership with **Grumbling Gryphons Traveling Children's Theater**, whose production of *The Ghost Net: An Environmental Musical of the Sea* brought energy, passion, and purpose to our school community. This show engaged every student in grades K-8 in an unforgettable, immersive experience that celebrated marine life while delivering an urgent and timely environmental message.

The dedication and hard work of the Grumbling Gryphons team—led by Artistic Director **Leslie Elias**—alongside our school staff and students, was evident in every aspect of the production. The artistry was inspiring, the message was powerful, and the joy was felt throughout the gymnasium. From rehearsals to the performance, everyone came together with enthusiasm and commitment, culminating in an awesome show that resonated with students, teachers, families, and the wider community.

We especially appreciated the addition of the **after-school Art & Drama Workshop**, also generously funded by the **Cornwall Foundation** and **National Iron Bank**. These special sessions, featuring visual artist **Natalie Resto** and director **Leslie Elias**, allowed students to further explore their creativity and deepen their connection to the show's themes. It was a unique and valuable opportunity for enrichment beyond the school day.

The inclusive spirit of this project was a highlight. Community members and families were warmly invited to participate in the performance or simply enjoy the show as audience members, fostering a wonderful sense of shared celebration. The production featured stunning costumes by **Ellen Moon** and live music performed by the talented **Brian Bender**, enhancing the overall magic and professionalism of the performance.

The Ghost Net was a perfect culmination of our underwater-theme this year, which included a Walk-a-thon in support of the **New York Marine Rescue Center** in the fall and our spring musical, *The Little Mermaid Jr.* The show's message of honoring and protecting marine life tied everything together beautifully and meaningfully.

Getting to know Leslie and her deep love for **Cornwall Consolidated School** and the wider **Cornwall community** has been a joy. Her vision and commitment to arts-in-education are truly inspiring.

Our heartfelt thanks to the **Cornwall Foundation** and **National Iron Bank** for making this exceptional program possible. This was more than a performance—it was an educational journey and community celebration we will never forget.

With thanks,

Leanne Maguire, Principal